

**Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Act**  
**Medicaid Infrastructure Grant**  
**Advisory Group**

**Meeting Minutes**

The Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Improvement Act Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Advisory Group Meeting was called to order on Wednesday, November 19, 2003 by Co-chair Alyce Thomas at 10:25 AM at Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services Multipurpose Room.

**Members in Attendance:**

Alyce Thomas-Nevada Division of Mental Health & Development Services  
Nina Davenport-National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Tracy DuPree-Nevada State Welfare Division/North via conference phone  
Robert “Red” Foster-General Public Northern Nevada  
Terry Hardy-General Public Northern Nevada via conference phone  
Paul Gowins-Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living via conference phone  
Robin Renshaw-Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents/South  
Robert Simola-Ormsby ARC  
Kimberli Vare-Skill Builders of Nevada  
Jessie Harris-General Public Southern Nevada  
Anthony “Tony” Amos- General Public Southern Nevada

**Members Not in Attendance:**

William Heavilin-Nevada Disability & Law Center  
Lisa Erquiaga-Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living

**Staff:**

Harry Snoek, Social Services Program Specialist III TWWIA  
Jeanne Schrauth, Administrative Assistant II TWWIA  
Lori Inera-Social Services Program Specialist II Las Vegas Office

**Others Present:**

Loretta Wilson  
Sandra Drury

**Others Present continued:**

Bob Wolfe

Tondalaya Scott

Vivian Zud

Ann Bracey

Becky Taylor

Jeannie Gutierrez

**I. Roll Call**

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

**II. Approval of October Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

**III. Introduction of New Staff**

New staff member, Lori Inera, Social Services Program Specialist II was introduced to the Advisory Group members. Lori gave a brief sketch of her background and work experience.

**IV. Staff Projects Status Update**

**a. HIWA Technology Update**

Harry began by advising the Group that he has been meeting with the Department of Information Technology and DHCFP Accounting staff regarding the development of the premium payment system to be used in this program. Invoices will be in English and Spanish so that they are easily understood by recipients. Accounting will develop accounts payable and accounts receivable systems that will allow reports to be created and printed so Harry can provide CMS with required information.

Harry has also been meeting with NOMADS (Nevada State Welfare Division's eligibility information technology system) staff. They are working on eligibility notices: approval notices, conditional approval notices, notice of denial plus several other notices are being developed. They have also been working on development of the process behind statistical reports required by the Federal Government for quarterly and annual reports. These statistical reports will allow for an eligibility tracking information system that gives the HIWA program the ability to track various

demographic data of recipients eligible for the program. The HIWA program will also be able to track the amount of categorical earnings that recipients earn on a monthly basis.

The 2004 MIG Grant application has been completed and postmarked in a timely fashion. Harry has requested \$500,000.00 for operating expenses and program development next year from the Federal Government.

At the last AG meeting Harry advised the Advisory Group of a video/DVD that Minnesota has developed that he was most impressed with. He contacted the appropriate office in Minnesota and was able to order 3 videos and 3 DVD's so that each district office as well as the central office will have a copy. Harry is hoping to be able to show the video to the Advisory Group at the January meeting.

#### **b. 2004 Projected Budget Update**

Harry started the budget review by addressing the larger expenditures to be incurred by the end of 2003. It is anticipated there may be upwards of \$200,000 spent in information technology interface development, hardware, software, programs, equipment and training by the end of this year.

Harry referred everyone to the projected 2004 budget handout and reviewed each item answering questions from the AG members as they were asked.

#### **c. Transportation Reimbursement Report**

Harry advised the Group that the response he received from the Federal Department of Transportation was that they do not have a program to reimburse families and friends, but that the states' may have this feature built into state PAS programs. Paul Gowins indicated he dealt with this issue and that it is not a feature of the Nevada PAS program

Paul suggested that transportation reimbursement should be an amount that is agreed upon by Eligibility and the applicant under work related expenses. This was tabled for future discussion.

**d. Policy**

Harry advised the AG members that for the meeting in January he anticipates having a draft policy packet made up at least 10 days prior to the meeting for review by the Group. He feels that the meeting will be a long meeting with a lot of discussion on the draft policies.

**VI. Old Business**

**a. Advisory Group-Where is it heading and what are its responsibilities?**

The Advisory Group members indicated that this issue has been discussed and analyzed and need not be discussed further.

**V. New Business**

**a. \*Future meeting dates and locations, discussion**

Meetings are to be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. January's meeting will be on the 28th at Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health in Sparks; February's meeting will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas at Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health; March's meeting will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> in Carson City and April's meeting will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> in Minden. Meetings for the rest of the year will be discussed at the March meeting. Some discussion was raised as to whether the May meeting should be skipped because of the Consumer Conference being held the first full week of May in Reno.

**b. Eligibility Update**

Harry advised the Group that at the January meeting there will a presenter from the Nevada State Welfare Division who will review the Medicaid application through approval process.

**VI. Group Report**

**a. Mental Health Consumers Conference Committee**

Per Alyce the planning meetings will be starting in December.

**b. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Disability Awareness Day**

Tony reported that the Disability Awareness Day event went well and that information was given out at the Ticket to Work booth as well as at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society booth.

**VII. Public Comment**

Paul Gowins commented that the Advisory Group may want to think about meeting with the Governor or his new staff to bring them up to speed on how the program is progressing. He reminded the Group that Marybel Batjer is no longer there to advise the Governor on this program. He feels that if there is a budget crisis again in July that this program would be on the chopping block or be put on hold. Alyce suggested this should be done before the State of the State Address.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.